(b) As reported by Coal India Limited (CIL), there is no pending case of land loosers in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). Acquisitions of land and deciding cases of land loosers in MCL is a continuous process, which passes through various stages, namely, payment of compensation, employment to eligible land loosers, resettlement of land loosers, physical possession of land and structures etc.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.

Conversion of old and loss making coal mines

†3240. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Ltd. and Government has received certain proposals in which conversion of old and loss-making coal mines into profit-making mines by using modern techniques have been offered;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the number of proposals received by Government so far;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision to implement these suggestions; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGROLIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two proposals have been received to develop coking coal resources/mines which are either unexploited or abandoned. One proposal is from M/s. Arcelor Mittal to develop such coking coal mines in joint venture with Coal India Limited and the other from M/s. Essar for leasing out such mines to the private sector. Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) has been asked to assess resource position in such mines.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of part (c) above.

Allocation of coal on "Tapering Basis"

3241. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the allocation of coal on "Tapering Basis" to the power companies and have allocated coal blocks for their power plants in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has formulated many new policies in this respect;

(c if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that year-wise allocation of coal on tapering linkage would be based on the difference between year-wise requirement and year-wise production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) Yes Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Standing Linkage Committee

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(Long-term), an Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Government has approved grant of "tapering linkage" to certain Power Sector units and Sponge Iron Units, which were allotted coal blocks but mining of which was yet to commence. The coal supplies will be made for a maximum period of three years or till the units develop their coal blocks to meet their coal requirements, whichever is earlier.

(b) and (c) On 4th December, 2007, Ministry of Coal has issued guidelines relating to issue of Letter of Assurance (LoA)/allocation of coal on "Tapering Basis" to various consumers. The salient features of these guidelines are given below:—

(i) Procedures for granting tapering linkage would be similar to the procedure being followed for grant of normal linkage. The applicant has to submit an application, in triplicate, alongwith prescribed processing fees.

(ii) Tapering linkages would be considered by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) and approved by the competent authority.

(iii) Year-wise allocation of coal on tapering linkage basis would be based on the Letter of Allocation of the blocks and the approved mining plan.

(iv) Normally, the validity period for tapering linkages would not be extended. This means that after the period of the tapering linkage is over, it will be deemed to have been terminated. However, in some rare cases, if there are strong justifiable reasons for extension of tapering linkage, the allocattee company should move a fresh application for a fresh tapering linkage to the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term).

(d) Coal Controller has been entrusted with the exercise of working out the year-wise requirement of tapering linkage based on the difference between year-wise requirement and the year-wise production of coal as per the approved mine plan and subject to such quantitative or other restrictions as may be prescribed in this regard.

Joint venture firms in coal exploration

3242. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited and Tata Steels have set up a joint venture to mine coal blocks for securing assured coking coal supply to meet their increasing production needs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has given permission to such joint venture firms to explore coal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it would have an effect on import of coal from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Tata Steels have signed a Joint Venture Agreement for mining of coal on 3rd January, 2008.